Issue of passports by Regional Passport Offices

395. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued from Delhi and other Regional Passport Offices during the year 1985-86, regionwise;

(b) the average time taken by the Passport Offices in issuing passports; and

(c) the number of complaints received about the delay in the issuing of passports during the last year.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The number of passports issued from Delhi and other Regional Passport Offices during the period April 1985 to March, 1986 are as follows:—

R.P.O./P.O.s	
1. Ahmedabad	70,149
2. Bangalore	88,606
3. Bareilly	58,997
4. Bhopal	17,024
5. Bhubaneswar	4,194
6. Bombay	2,79,138
7. Calcutta	36,638
8. Chandigarh	58,987
9. Cochin	97,863
10. Delhi	1,14,298
11. Guwahati	2,826
12. Hyderabad	57,473
13. Jaipur	47,836
14. Jalandhar	50,926
15. Kozhikode	67,376
16. Lucknow	32,006
17. Madras	86,440
18. Patna	14,469
19. Srinagar;	7,305
20. Tiruchirappalli	70,230
21. Vijayawada	13,947

(b) The time taken in issuing passports depend upon the completion of papers including receipts of verification reports from the police authorities concerned. However, Passport Offices have been instructed to issue passports within 5 working days of completion of papers in the office.

(c) 1725 complaints were received from all over India during the year 1986 about the delay in the issue of passports.

Hiring of Scooters and Taxies at Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations

396. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both at Delhi and New Delhi railway stations scooter and taxi drivers refuse to take passengers including Members of Parliament to North Avenue, South Avenue, Connaught Place, Windsor Place, Ashoka Road, Western Court, Rajendra Prasad Road, Ferozeshah Road, Canning Lane, UP Bhawan especially after 9 P.M. and that causes great hardship to passengers;

(b) whether it is a fact that exhorbitant fares are charged by the drivers from the passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that traffic police constables are not on duty at these stations after 9 P.M.; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to help the passengers in the matter?